Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 6-12 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a Continuation-in-Part of co-pending Application No. 09/294,836 now U.S. Patent No. 6,345,294, granted February 5, 2002. This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/160,535 filed October 20, 1999 entitled "Automatic Network Address Assignment and Translation Inference" (now expired) and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/178,063 filed January 24, 2000 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Automatic Network Address Assignment" (now expired). The contents of the above applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph at page 42, line 26 through page 43, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The principles of the present invention are capable of operating and automatically assigning IP addresses to each appliance 110, 1420, 1425, even in the face of the network switch 1410 and proxy/NATS 1430a, 1430b. In the case of the proxy/NATS 1430a, 1430b, the central appliance server 150 uses information determined by a process to overcome network address translation systems, as described in U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/260,535 filed October 20, 1999 entitled "Automatic Network Address Assignment and Translation Inference[[,]]" (now expired), U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/294,837 filed April 19, 1999 entitled "Replica Routing[[,]]"(now issued as U.S. Patent 6,505,254 and entitled "Methods and Apparatus for Routing Requests in a Network"), and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/779,770 filed January 7, 1997 entitled "Replica Routing[[,]]" (now issued as U.S. Patent 6,052,718); the entire teachings of all are incorporated herein by reference. With regard to the network switch 1410, the appliance 1420 is still able to use the process described in Figs. 1-13 for the reasons to follow.

Please replace the paragraph at page 44, lines 9-22 with the following amended paragraph:

Many appliances may be distributed across the WAN 140, forming an appliance network. The appliance network incorporates other unique forms of functionality that may be

implemented to work in combination with the teachings of the present invention. The other forms of functionality are described in related applications, including: co-pending Application No. 09/294,837, filed April 19, 1999 entitled "Replica Routing" (now issued as U.S. Patent 6,505,254 and entitled "Methods and Apparatus for Routing Requests in a Network"); co-pending Application No. 08/779,770 filed January 7, 1997 entitled "Replica Routing" (now issued as U.S. Patent 6,052,718); co-pending Provisional Application No. 60/178,063 filed January 24, 2000 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Determining a Network Topology in the Presence of Network Address Translation" (now expired); co-pending Provisional Application No. 60/177,415 filed January 21, 2000 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Minimalist Approach to Implementing Server Selection" (now expired); and co-pending Provisional Application No. 60/177,985 filed January 25, 2000 entitled "Fast-Changing Network Status and Load Monitoring and Feedback[[.]]" (now expired). The contents of the above applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.